

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0005] with the following amended paragraph:

[0005] To solve such drawbacks that would be caused by the termination of the friction stir welding operation, there has been proposed a friction stir welding technique wherein each of the two workpieces to be joined together is provided with a dummy end section corresponding to the end portion of the joint region at which the friction stir welding operation is terminated. After the friction stir welding operation, ~~this~~the dummy end sections of the two workpieces are cut off, so that an obtained assembly of the workpieces joined together does not have a cavity or recess which would be left due to the removal or separation of the probe 4 and shoulder surface 5 of the rotary tool 3. An example of this technique is disclosed in JP-A-2000-42759. However, this technique still has some problems such as a need of forming the workpieces with the dummy end sections, and an inevitably increased cost of manufacture of the desired assembly due to the removal of some amount of material from the workpieces, and an operation to remove the dummy sections.

Please replace the heading on page 14 with the following amended heading:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION~~PREFERRED EMBODIMENT~~